



## Flag Football Coach Protocol

### Fall is Focus on Fun and Safety

The City of Charleston Recreation Department is thrilled to have fall sports for our citizens. The only way to have this fall be a success is with the COOPERATION of all parents, players and coaches. Fall sports will look different than our normal fall season. We have instituted new standards, protocols and game rules that will meet or exceed CDC national standards for keeping our children safe when playing outdoor sports. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere to allow our children to exercise, socialize (distantly), be fit and have fun!

Below are the protocols and we are asking ALL parents, spectators, players, and whomever come to watch to HELP US keep EVERYONE SAFE. If we fail at this, our kids are back inside and we know that is not what we want!

**PLEASE follow all guidelines, protocols and ordinances set forth.**

**Please DO NOT attend practice or games if you feel sick.**

- Coaches and Players will follow all city ordinances for mask established at time of play. As of this time Coaches are required to wear a face covering at all time while on city fields, practices and games.
- Players will be required to wear their face covering at all times except when they are actually practicing on the field or playing on the field. If on sidelines they must be in face covering.
- Players will be asked to socially distance when on the field. Markings will be on the field.
- Parents will sit on the same side as their child's team, field will be lined for spectators viewing.
- Players are asked to have their own sanitizer.
- Coordinators will schedule practices so there is ample time to move players off the field immediately after practice and games.
- With 5 minutes before your practice finishes you will hear an air horn. This is your 5-minute reminder to wrap up practice. 5 minutes later an air horn will go off signaling the end of practice.
- Teams will need to immediately leave the practice field and head to their cars.
- Coaches please do not linger, continue to meet or huddle after the second air horn.
- The teams coming next will be asked to stay in cars until the practices before clear fields.
- Games will be similar. Immediately following when games finish we ask everyone to move to their cars so we may get the next round of games started.
- No benches or bleachers will be used during practices or games.
- No handshakes at the end of the game, no team huddles, no grouping together for cheers, no high fives, verbal encouragement only. Each team will line up on their side of the field at the finish and bow or wave as a team to their opponent.
- We ask all players to not spit, do not spit on hands, cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Snacks: we prefer no team snacks. If you do it MUST be prepackaged. No cut fruit or homemade items. Sanitize hands before and after.
- Players are to bring their own water bottle. There will be no shared water coolers.
- Staff will sanitize your practice equipment and you can pick up before your practice and return immediately after so that it can be sanitized for the next team. Coaches will not have their own equipment for practices.
- Coaches will need to ensure that players do not high five, handshake, huddle together.
- We ask that when needing to speak to staff at fields that you please maintain at least a 10 foot distance. Staff will be happy to help and give you any necessary information.
- Practices will start after Labor Day
- Games will begin first of October
- No combines or drafts this season. Random draw, limited request.
- Request will be limited to one request per player and not guaranteed
- Coordinators will make final roster decisions. Skill and age will be as balanced as we can manage.
- Some age groups may be combined to co-ed depending on registration.
- 6 games per league – 4 weeks of practice, 4-6 weeks of games
- 9 and above will have all practices and games during the week. Practices once games start will be very limited.
- 8 and below will have all practices and games on Saturdays. No practices once games start.
- Game structure will be pods/cohorting of 4 teams to limit exposure in all age groups
- Referees will be used for 9 and above when available. We are experiencing a shortage of referees.
- Please be prepared to not possibly not have an Official to call your game. Staff will make every effort to have referees.
- We have eliminated all travel to other areas for this season.